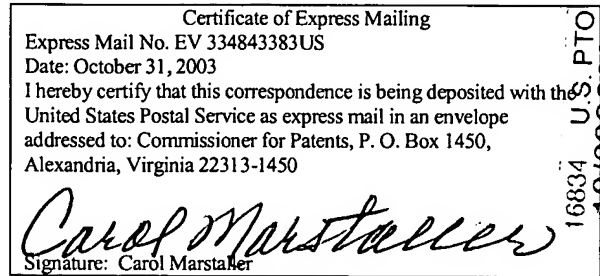


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: Leonard Stevens et al.

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLOSING A SEVERED STERNUM

Mail Stop Patent Application
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450



PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Transmitted herewith for filing, please find the following:

- ☒ Specification, claims and abstract of the above-referenced patent application (total of 20 pages)
- ☒ 5 sheet(s) of drawing(s) formal) Figures 1-7.
- ☒ Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney (Unsigned).
- ☐ An Assignment of the invention to:
- ☒ Applicant(s) claim(s) small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27.
- ☒ Other (specify):
1. Relationship of Claims in Present Application to U.S. Patent Application No. 10/095,324
 2. Check in amount of \$427.00 as filing fee
 3. Acknowledgment postcard .
- ☒ This application is a:
- ☒ Continuation
- ☐ Divisional
- ☐ Continuation-In-Part

of prior co-pending parent application Serial No. 10/095,324 filed on March 7, 2002, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent No. 6,540,769, filed on October 31, 2001.

In the event that a petition to extend time under 37 CFR 1.136 is necessary in the parent application to maintain copendency for this application, a petition for an extension of the necessary time to maintain copendency is hereby requested for the parent application and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit our Account Number 10-0447 for the necessary fees.

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

FOR: <u>SMALL</u> ENTITY	NO. FILED	NO. EXTRA	RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE				\$385
TOTAL CLAIMS	19- 20	0	\$9	\$
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	4- 3	1	\$42	\$ 42
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) PRESENTED			\$260	\$ _____
TOTAL FEE:				\$427

 Please charge my Deposit Account No. 10-0447 in the amount of \$

 X Check(s) in the amount of \$ 427.00 is/are attached. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0447 .

 X The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees during the pendency of this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0447.

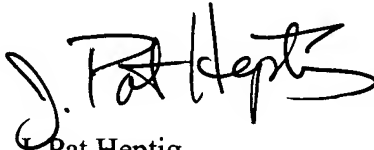
 X Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 and under 37 CFR 1.20(d).

 The issue fee set in 37 CFR 1.18 at or before mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.311(b).

X Any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 including fees for presentation of extra claims.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKENS & GILCHRIST, P.C.

By: 
J. Pat Heptig
Reg. No. 40,643

1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 3200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2799
Tel: (214) 855-4779
Fax: (214) 855-4300

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: Leonard Stevens et al.

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLOSING A SEVERED STERNUM

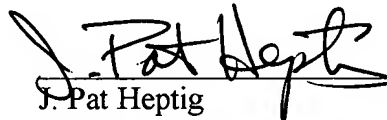
MAIL STOP: PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL
"EXPRESS MAIL" Mailing Label No. EV334843383US
Date of Deposit: 10/31/03
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Type or Print Name: C. MARSTALLER
Signature: Carol Marstaller

Dear Sir:

**RELATIONSHIP OF CLAIMS IN PRESENT APPLICATION TO U.S. PATENT
APPLICATION NO. 10/095,324**

Claims 1-19 of the present application have been copied from the claims of pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/095,324 for the purpose of provoking an interference proceeding between the present application and U.S. Patent Application No. 10/095,324.


J. Pat Heptig
Registration No. 40,643

JENKENS & GILCHRIST
3200 Fountain Place
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2799
214/855-4779 (Direct)
214/855-4300 (Fax)